# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5051
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
EFFECT OF PESTICIDES
Birla Shri Om

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that the regular use of pesticides is harmful for the health of farmers since it damages their DNA and may cause diseases such as cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether toxins in pesticides have caused deaths of the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the protection of the farmers from these harmful chemical pesticides?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d): The Government registers pesticides after evaluating the safety of the product with respect to human health. Pesticides used in accordance with instructions on labels and leaflets, are unlikely to cause any bodily harm.

(e): The Government of India is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach as an ecologically desirable alternative to chemical pesticides and judicious use of chemical pesticides is recommended as a measure of last resort. Human Resource Development is being undertaken by Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) through Farmers' Field schools, short and long duration training programmes on understanding and use of biopesticides. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 47 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. A simple message on the five essential principles of judicious pesticide use - application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application − is sought to be conveyed through hoardings, banners etc. in regional languages in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers through State Governments to stock and distribute/sell approved pesticides, and to advise farmers to follow instructions on label and leaflets of pesticides.